

APPROVED MINUTES

**Ridgefield Conservation Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board**
Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877 (203) 431-2713
December 12, 2005

A meeting of the Ridgefield Conservation Commission was held at the Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877 on December 12, 2005 at approximately 7:45 p.m.

The following members were present:

Susan Baker
Doug Barile
Dave Cronin
Ben Oko
Carol Stoddard

Dr. Oko chaired the meeting. Nancy McDaniel was present to take minutes.

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 21, 2005 meeting were reviewed.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of November 21, 2005 be and hereby are approved and ordered filed in the minute book of the Commission and the Town Hall minute book.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer, Ms. McDaniel reported the following bill: \$1633.00 – Economy Printing

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED, that the aforementioned invoice be and hereby is approved for payment as soon as practicable.

Dr. Oko announced that a second bill from Carmody & Torrence for \$1593.50 had been received.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, it was

RESOLVED, that the aforementioned invoice be and hereby is approved for payment as soon as practicable.

OPEN SPACE

Neds Mountain Road – Mr. Cronin reported that no improvements had been made at the parking area, but that the Highway Department had agreed to spread some asphalt millings in the spring. Dr. Oko commented that a thank you note should be sent to the Department.

Lake Windwing – Dr. Oko said that \$400 in donations had been received to add to the \$500 pledged by the Commission for removal of autumn olive bushes. He suggested obtaining additional funding and applying it to a second cutting in the spring.

SHARING SESSIONS

November 22 – Ms. Baker reported for Mr. Brewster that the Bennetts Pond applicant presented additional language for a proposed amendment to the regulations, but did not address all of the concerns raised by the Conservation Commission. Dr. Oko suggested that she ask for responses at the December 20 meeting of Planning & Zoning. Water diversion is an issue. Aquarion must resubmit the diversion permit application.

December 6 – Ms. Baker reported for Ms. Sesto. Regarding Bryan Avenue, she said that Ms. Sesto kept the attention focused on the drainage problem. The Town had hired an engineer who was unable to determine the depth of ground water. She will return with more information. Bioretention ditches are to be dug to a depth that is below the water table, but the applicant's specialist says that they will work because they are located near foundations that have curtain drains. There is not unanimity on this point.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, INLAND WETLANDS BOARD

Meetings for Attendance

- December 12 – Mr. Barile
- December 20 – Ms. Baker
- January 3 – Ms. Baker
- January 10 – Mr. Cronin
- January 17 – Ms. Stoddard

NEW BUSINESS

85 Spring Valley Road – The issue is wetland next to a riding ring. Recent grading had filled in a wetland, and trees were felled. The property has a farm designation, which permits certain activities that are not allowed on non-farm properties. Commissioners expressed concern that changing the wetland and allowing horses to graze there could potentially affect both Mopus Brook with thermal and fecal pollution and eventually the water supply that it empties into.

On a motion by Mr. Barile, seconded by Mr. Cronin and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED, that the Commission receive a clear interpretation of the regulation that seems to prohibit filling and clearcutting in the wetland, that any further felling of trees and filling of wetlands be prohibited due to potential impact on Mopus Brook and that the use of wetland for grazing of horses be examined as well vis a vis pollution of Mopus Brook.

Dogwood Drive – The application will come before Planning & Zoning in late January, so the application was not addressed in the meeting.

OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS AND DONATIONS

Land Offer – Dr. Oko reported a call from an individual offering to sell one acre adjoining open space. He will follow up.

OTHER BUSINESS

Paint Ball Games in Open Space – Dr. Oko noted that the deed for Levy Park indicates that the land can be used for recreation, so paint ball games could legally be allowed. Members expressed concern about the Commission’s inability to supervise games and limit the activity. They were uneasy about the precedent of paint ball games at Levy, the residue of paint after each game and the fact that other people could not use the open space when a game is in progress. As a result, they decided not to allow paint ball games on Town open space.

Walk Book – The new edition is close to completion. Ms. Baker has turned the text over to the individual who is finalizing it. She will review the final maps with Mr. Cronin. Ms. McDaniel will request that Geoff Morris of Ridgefield Magazine provide a photograph for the front cover.

Meeting Times – Dr. Oko asked members if they would consider starting meetings earlier than 7:45 p.m. After discussion, they decided to meet at 7:30 starting with the upcoming meeting in January.

WALKS

January 6 - Starting at the Annex parking lot at 8:45 a.m.
Pond dredging proposals at three properties

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy McDaniel